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29 March 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion Regarding Project QUILL

1. A meeting was held in the office of Mr. [redacted] on 28 March regarding the security aspects of Project QUILL. Those in attendance were Mr. [redacted], Lt. Col. David Bradburn, Mr. [redacted], Mr. Mazza, Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted].

2. Lt. Col. Bradburn indicated that he would be briefing the NRO Staff regarding QUILL the following day and would be happy to present the gist of his proposed briefing to the group.

3. He then indicated what General Greer considered to be the mission of P-40 (Project QUILL).

MISSION: a. Ionosphere effect on resolution.
b. Radar technology in satellite environment.

OBJECTIVES: a. 100 feet resolution.
b. Read out and recovery
c. Minimum modification to existing radar.
d. As soon as possible.

APPROACH: a. With TAT (thrust augmented Thor) AGENA D, RF4C radar on [redacted] optical corollator.
b. With existing facilities (launch, track, recovery).
c. By five payloads, fly three.

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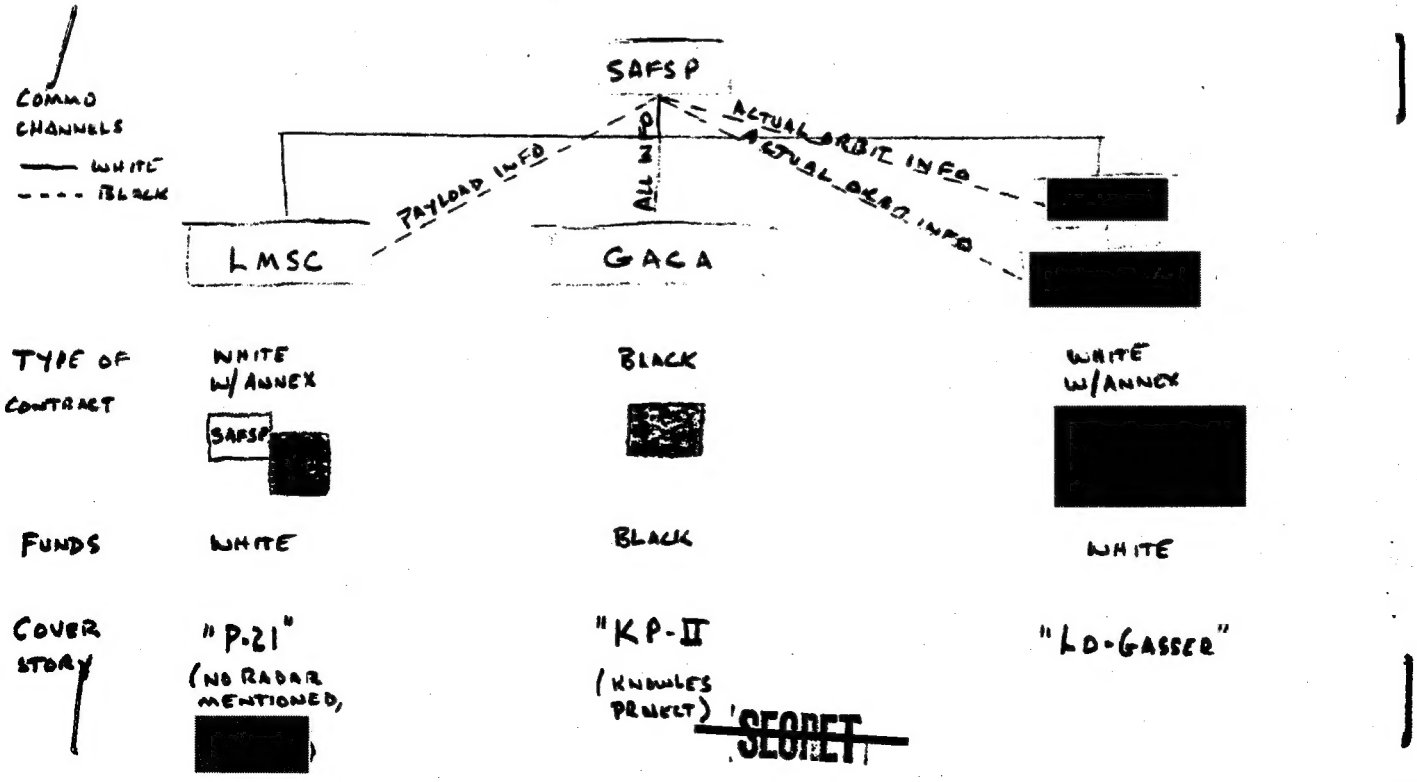
4. Bradburn indicated that this would primarily be handled on a secret--special handling basis with respect to communications. He added that QUILL would not be used to look at Russia at this time. He also indicated that one of the bad features of QUILL was that it would radiate and that Soviet monitoring equipment might be able to determine the nature and extent of our use of radar from a satellite.

5. Bradburn also indicated that the radar equipment should be able to photograph a track of land approximately 10 miles wide and up to 1500 miles in length. He indicated that the satellite would be orbiting at about 125 miles above the earth. He said that receiving stations would be reading out the radar at [redacted] Vandenburg Air Force Base. He said that QUILL would probably be programmed for a 4-day orbit with the recovery of the data film.

6. Bradburn indicated that the management structure for QUILL would be as follows:

A. SE/TD, system integration and antenna-LMSC.
B. Radar payloads, AGE, field support--Goodyear Aircraft, Phoenix.
C. Radar consulting services, optical corollation--[redacted]

7. Bradburn briefed the group from a chart with respect to the type of contract funding, and cover stories which were under consideration. An approximation of his chart is as follows:



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